

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Device for comminuting empty containers, ~~particularly selected from the group consisting of~~ beverage bottles ~~or and~~ beverage cans made of ~~plastic, particularly~~ ~~PET bottles~~ plastic/PET or tin plate, comprising a housing / frame (1), having a fill-in opening (2), as well as an exit opening (3), and a cutting unit (4) disposed in the housing (1), as well as means for drive and control of the cutting unit (4), whereby the cutting unit (4) contains at least cutting rollers (4.1 and 4.2), disposed at a distance from one another with regard to their axes of rotation, wherein the cutting unit (4) is a cutting unit (4) used for shredding paper or paperboard in document shredders, in which ~~each mechanism that contains the cutting rollers~~ roller (4.1 and 4.2) ~~is a document shredder cutting mechanism~~ has multiple

cutting disks (5), which are each disposed at an axial distance from one another by means of a circumferential groove (gap E), and  
the axes of rotation (A1 and A2) of the cutting rollers (4.1 and 4.2) are disposed at an axial distance from one another, in such a manner that adjacent cutting disks (5) of the two cutting rollers (4.1 and 4.2) mesh,  
whereby a gap, the cutting play (16), is present between two side flanks (5.2) of adjacent cutting disks (5), which flanks face one another, in each instance.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Device according to claim 1, wherein the cutting mechanism is a particle cut cutting mechanism and wherein the cutting disks (5) have grooves (6) worked into their circumference surface (5.1), whose trailing flank (6.3), in the direction of rotation (R, R'), forms a cutting tooth (5.3), together with the circumference surface (5.1), which tooth has an acute angle and points in the direction of rotation, whereby the groove flank (6.3), which begins at the tip, has a linear progression as well as a progression directed counter to the direction of rotation (R, R'), and the subsequent transition region (6.4) to the groove base (6.2) and/or the groove flank (6.1) that lies in the direction of rotation is configured in arc shape.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Device according to claim 1, wherein a separator / selector (10) is disposed ahead of the cutting mechanism and wherein the separator / selector (10) is a vane shaft that possesses three or four vanes (12), the free vane ends of which trail, seen in the direction of rotation (R').

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Device according to claim ~~4~~ 3, wherein the vanes attached in the center, i.e. on the axle of rotation, are configured in polygon manner (17) or in arc shape (18) towards their free ends.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Device according to claim 3, wherein the separator / selector (10) ~~consists of~~ is disposed ahead of the cutting mechanism, the separator/selector comprising two star-shaped shafts, seen in a face side ~~(face)~~ view.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): Device according to claim 3, wherein stabbing elements (21) that point in the direction of rotation (R') are disposed on the surface segments of the

separator (10) that contact the fed-in containers part of the time.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): Device according to claim 1, wherein the so-called cutting play (16) between adjacent cutting disks (5) of the cutting mechanism has a value between 0.005 mm and 2 mm.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): Device according to claim 1, wherein the overlap of adjacent and opposite cutting disks (5) has a value between 0.5 mm and 15 mm.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Device according to claim 1, wherein the cutting rollers ~~preferably consist of~~ comprise the material 42CrMoS4.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): Device according to claim 1, wherein the cutting disks (5) of the cutting rollers (4.1 and 4.2) are hardened.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): Device according to claim 1, wherein the bearings of the cutting rollers (4.1 and 4.2) are set into their bearing plates ~~(8)~~ (14) from the outside.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): Device according to claim 1, wherein the diameter (D) of the cutting disks (5) lies in the range of 50 to 200 mm, ~~preferably amounts to 80 mm +/- 10%.~~

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): Device according to claim 1, ~~wherein the~~ wherein the drive (7) of the cutting rollers (4.1 and 4.2) is ~~preferably~~ designed for speeds of rotation in the range of 30 to 150 rpm.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): Device according to claim 1, wherein strippers (4.6) are disposed between the cutting disks (5), whereby ~~standard strippers of document shredders are used~~ each stripper (4.6) only partially surrounds the cutting rollers (4.1 and 4.2, respectively) at their core diameter (4.3), in each instance, in the circumferential groove (E).

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): Device according to claim 1, wherein a photo eye is disposed in the region of the fill-in opening (2), to generate a starting pulse for the cutting rollers (4.1 and 4.2).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended):~~17.~~ Device according to claim 1, wherein nozzles are disposed in the housing (1), to apply

disinfectant to the cutting rollers (4.1 and 4.2) and/or the fill-in opening (2) and the outlet opening (3).

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): Device according to claim ~~18~~ 2, wherein the two groove flanks (6.1 and 6.3) run parallel to one another or diverge from one another.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): Device according to claim ~~18~~ 2, wherein the tip angle (W) of a cutting tooth (5.3) ~~preferably~~ lies between 45° and 80°.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): Device according to claim ~~18~~ 2, wherein the arc defined by a groove (6) and a segment of the circumference surface (5.1) of a cutting disk (5) that follows same (6) is ~~preferably~~ determined, by 40%, by the groove (6).

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): Device according to claim 1, wherein the device can be coupled to automated bottle and/or can return machines or integrated into same.